carrier for the biomaterial, the carrier comprising a polysaccharide gel having a viscosity between about 20,000 centipoise to about 350,000 centipoise, wherein the carrier maintains the biomaterial homogeneously suspended in the biocompatible composition prior to augmentation of a desired tissue site and during introduction of the biocompatible composition to the desired site.

By Cont

011.371077.1

41. (Amended) In a biocompatible composition for augmenting tissue, the biocompatible composition comprising a biomaterial for augmenting a desired tissue site and a biocompatible, resorbable, lubricous carrier for the biomaterial, the improvement comprising a polysaccharide gel carrier, having a viscosity between about 20,000 centipoise to about 350,000 centipoise, the carrier maintaining the biomaterial homogeneously suspended in the biocompatible composition prior to augmentation of a desired tissue site and during introduction of the biocompatible composition to the desired site.

Additionally, please add the following new claims:

- 57. The carrier according to claim 1, further comprising an additive.
- 58. The carrier according to claim 57, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a pH buffer, a stabilizer, and a surfactant.
- 59. The carrier according to claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 150,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

66

- 60. The carrier according to claim 59, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 200,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.
 - 61. The composition according to claim 21, further comprising an additive.
- 62. The composition according to claim 61, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a pH buffer, a stabilizer, and a surfactant.
- 63. The composition according to claim 21, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 150,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.
- 64. The composition according to claim 63, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 200,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.
 - 65. The composition according to claim 42, further comprising an additive.
- 66. The composition according to claim 61, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a pH buffer, a stabilizer, and a surfactant.
- 67. The composition according to claim 42, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 150,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

F